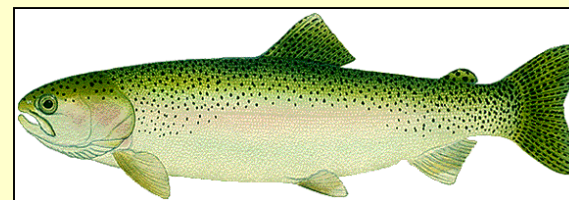
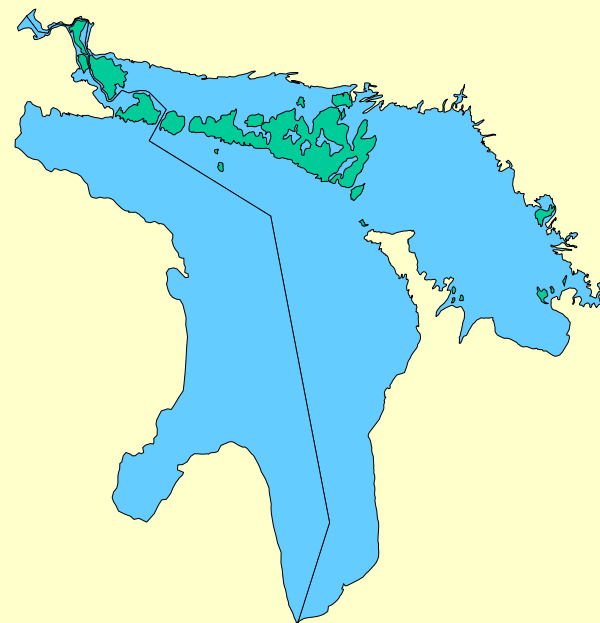


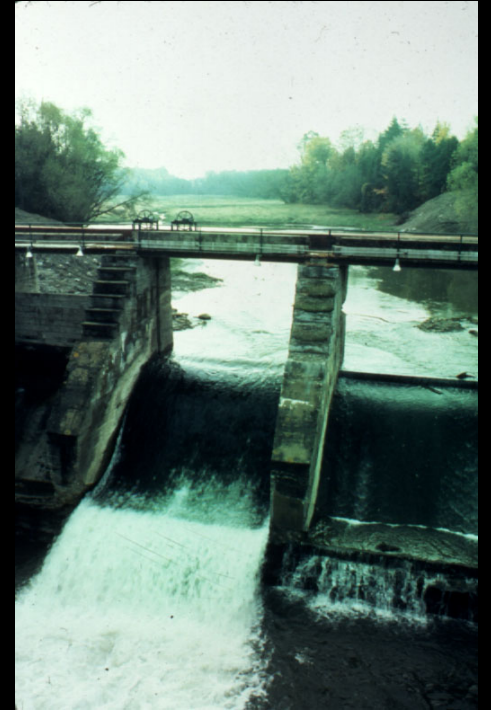
Lake Huron Rainbow Trout

**David Reid
OMNR**

**March 2001
Lake Huron Symposium**

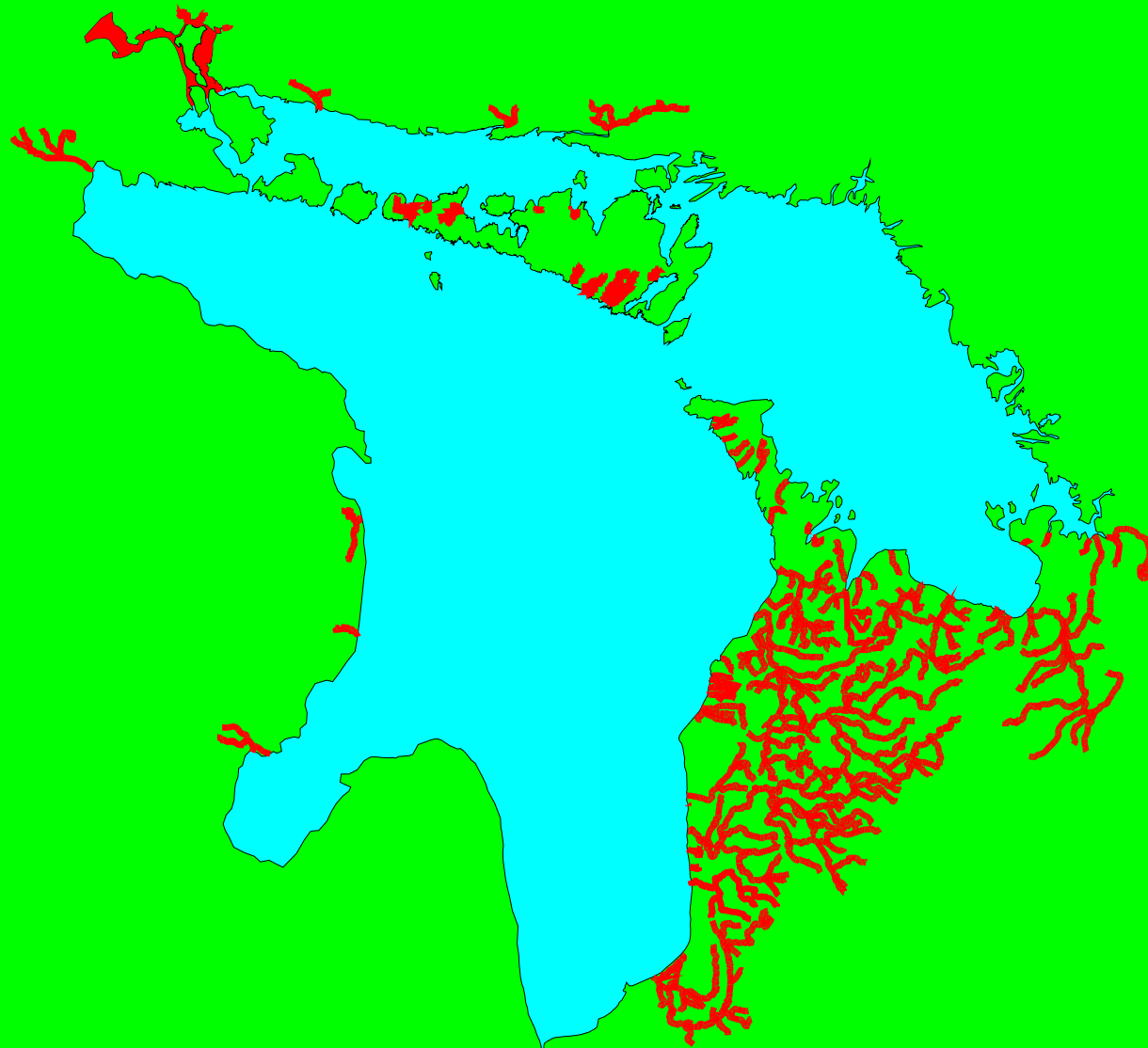




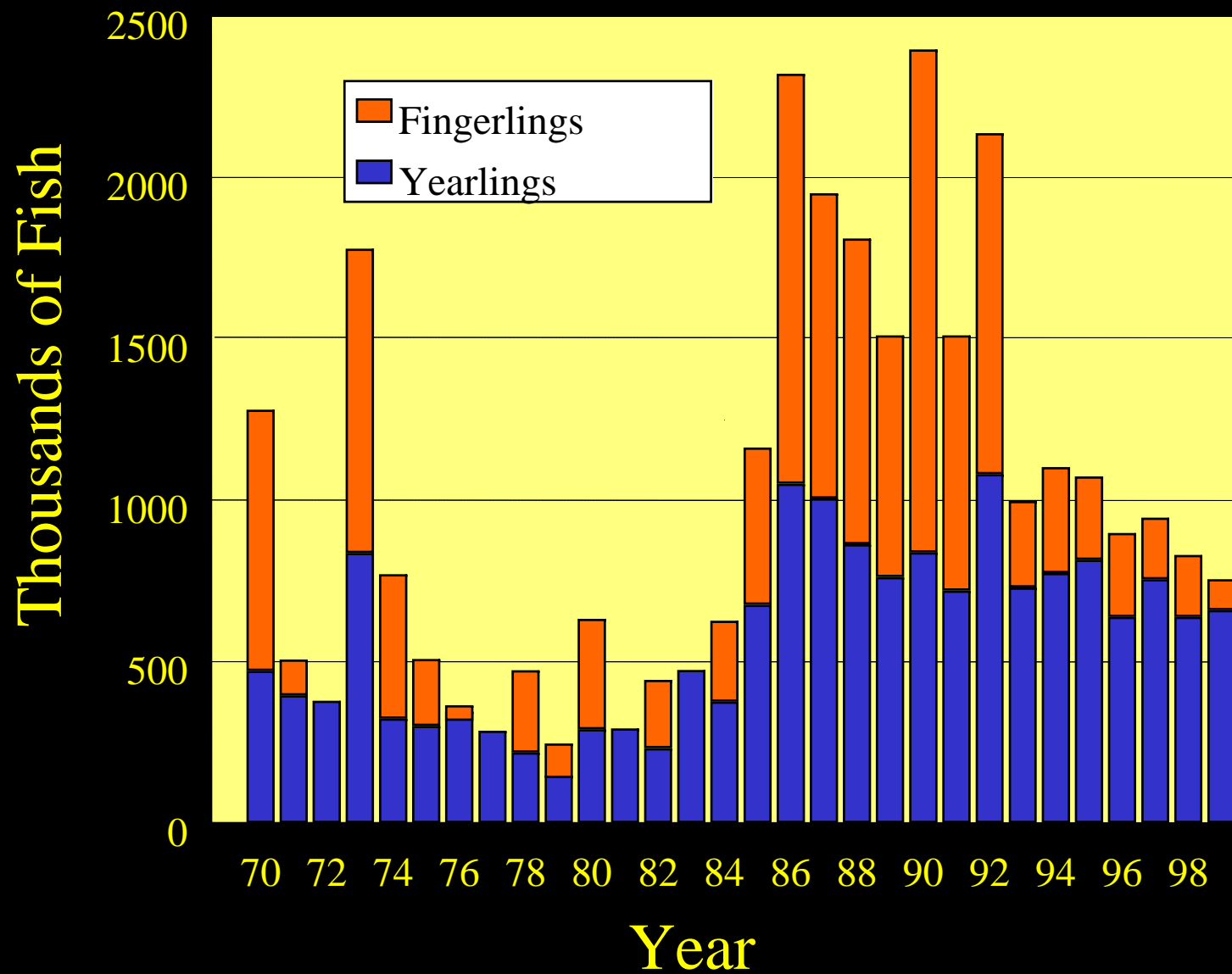






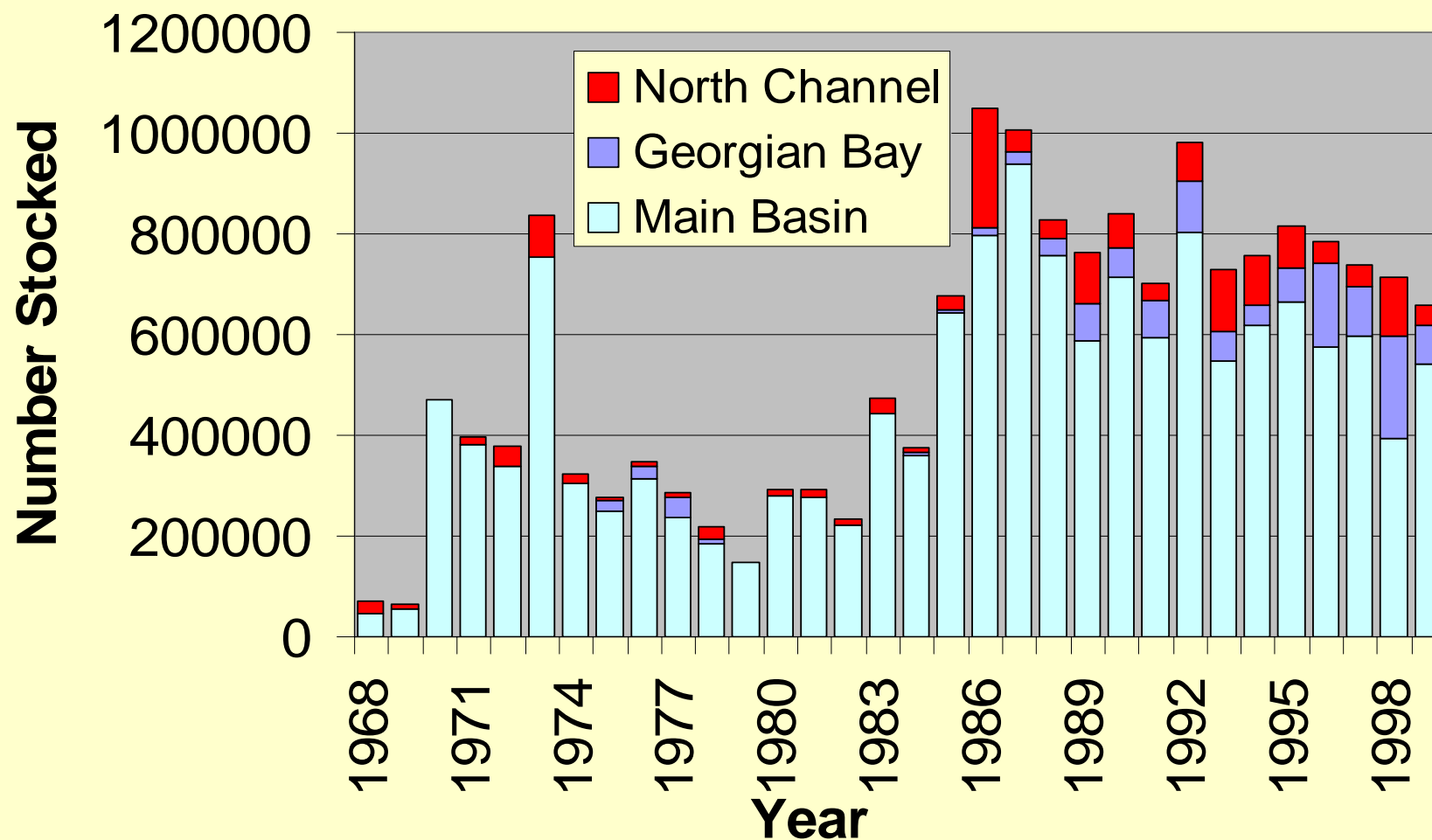


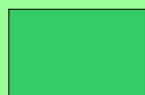
Tributaries with rainbow trout runs.



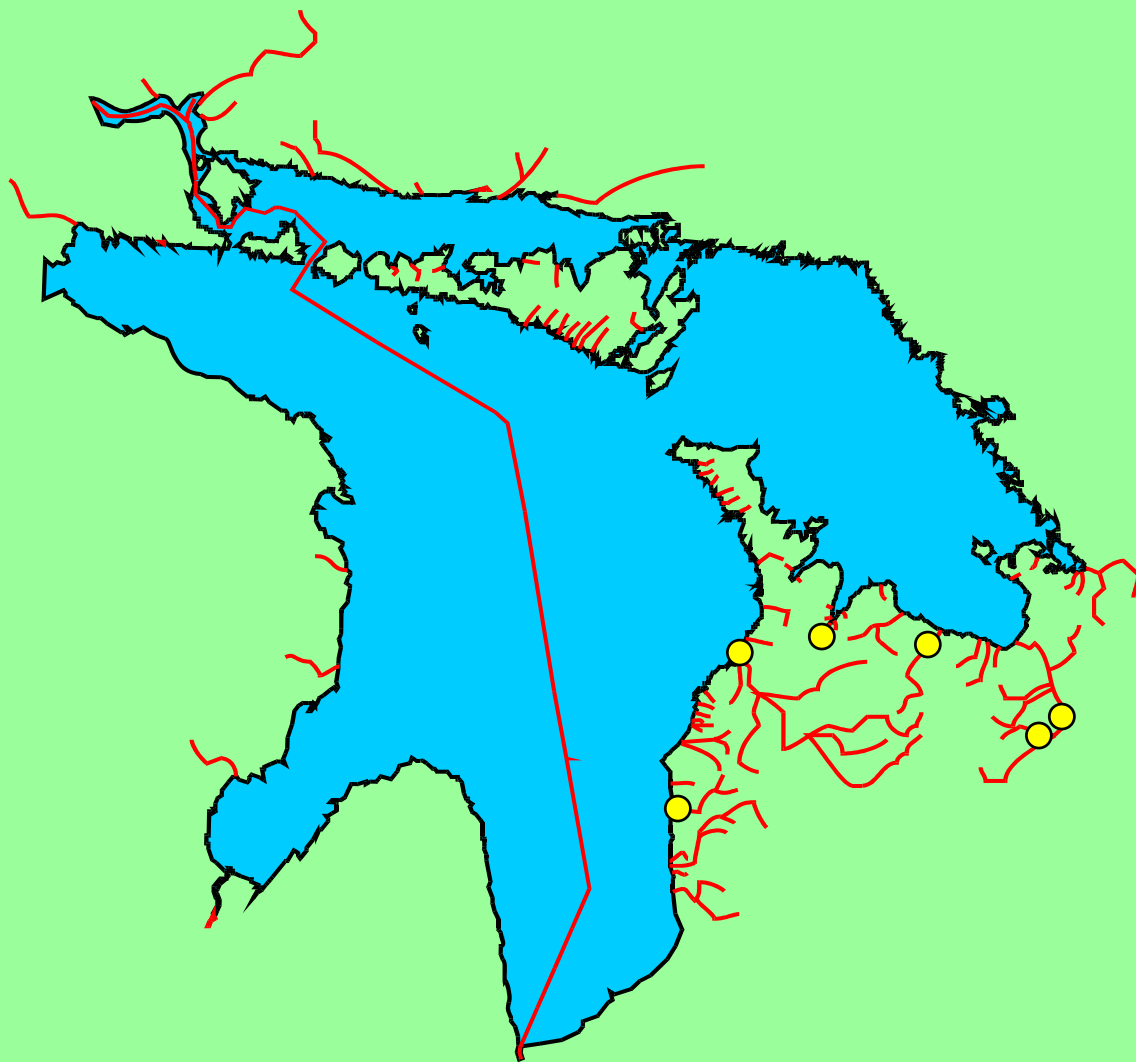
Rainbow/steelhead trout stocking in Lake Huron 1970 to 1999
(fertilized egg and fry stocking not included).

Rainbow Trout Yearling Stocking



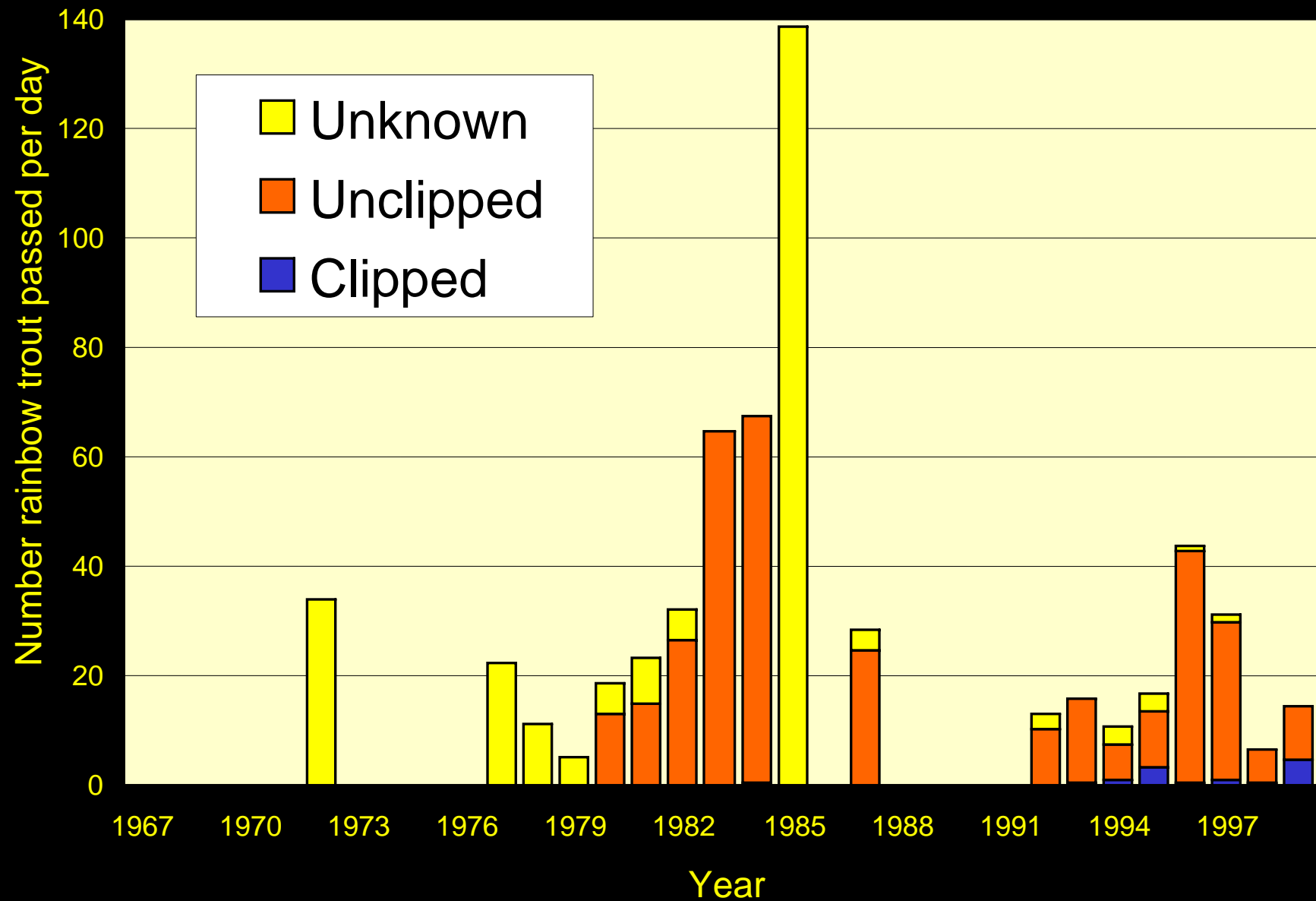


Areas experiencing declines in rainbow trout abundance
by the late 1980s.

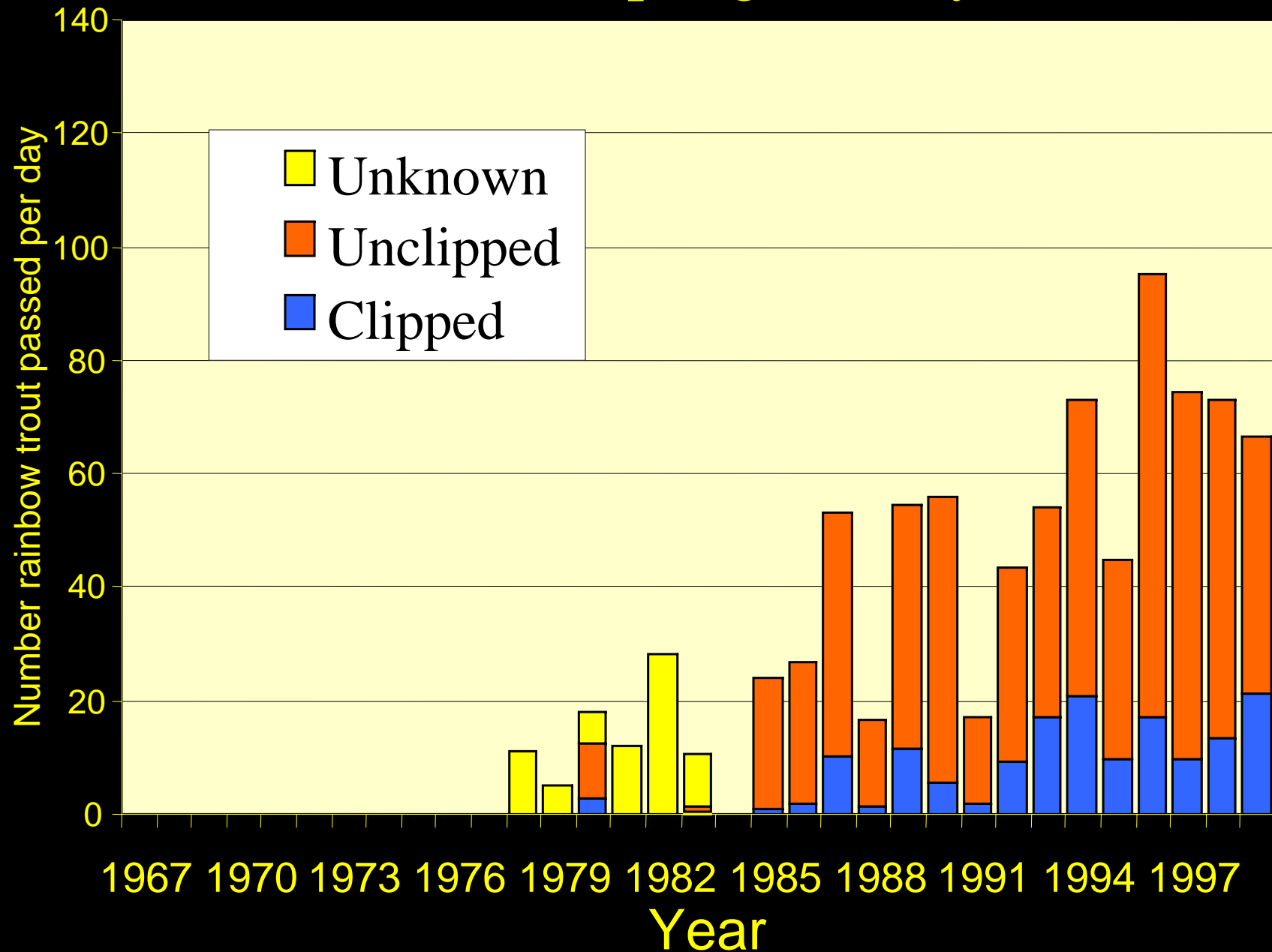


 Fish Ladders

Georgian Bay (Spring fishway runs)

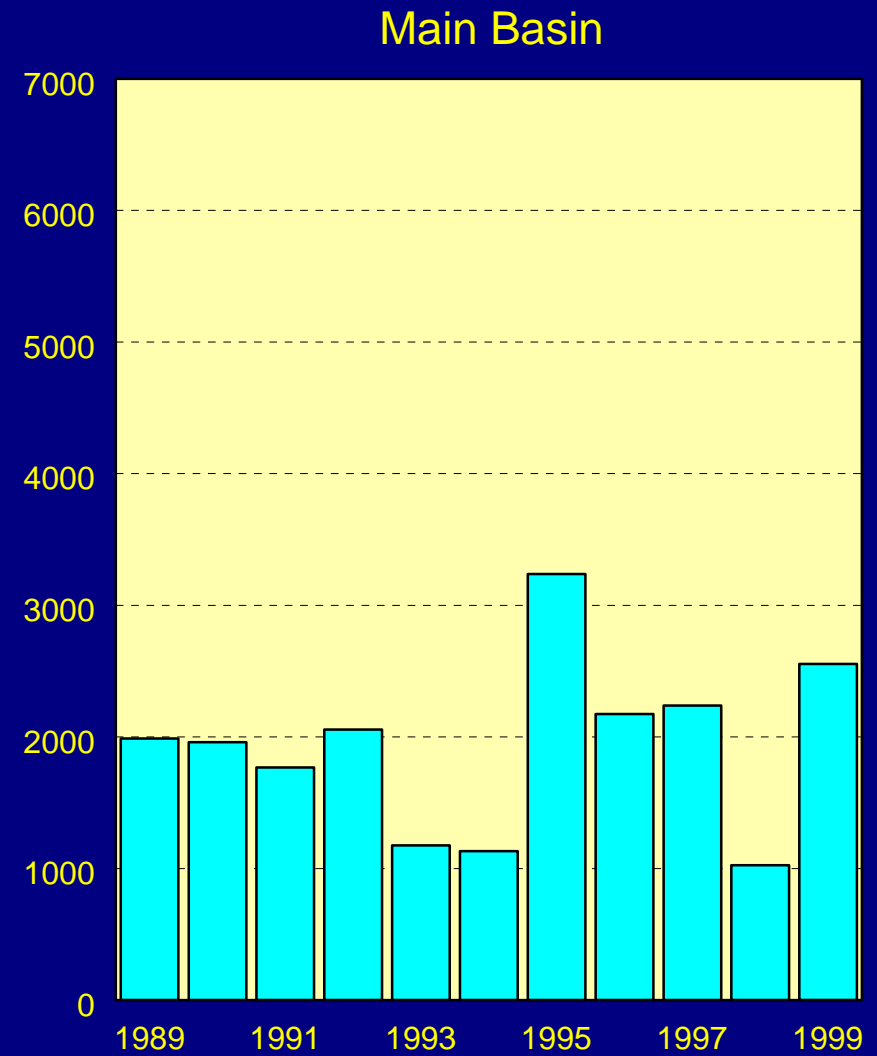
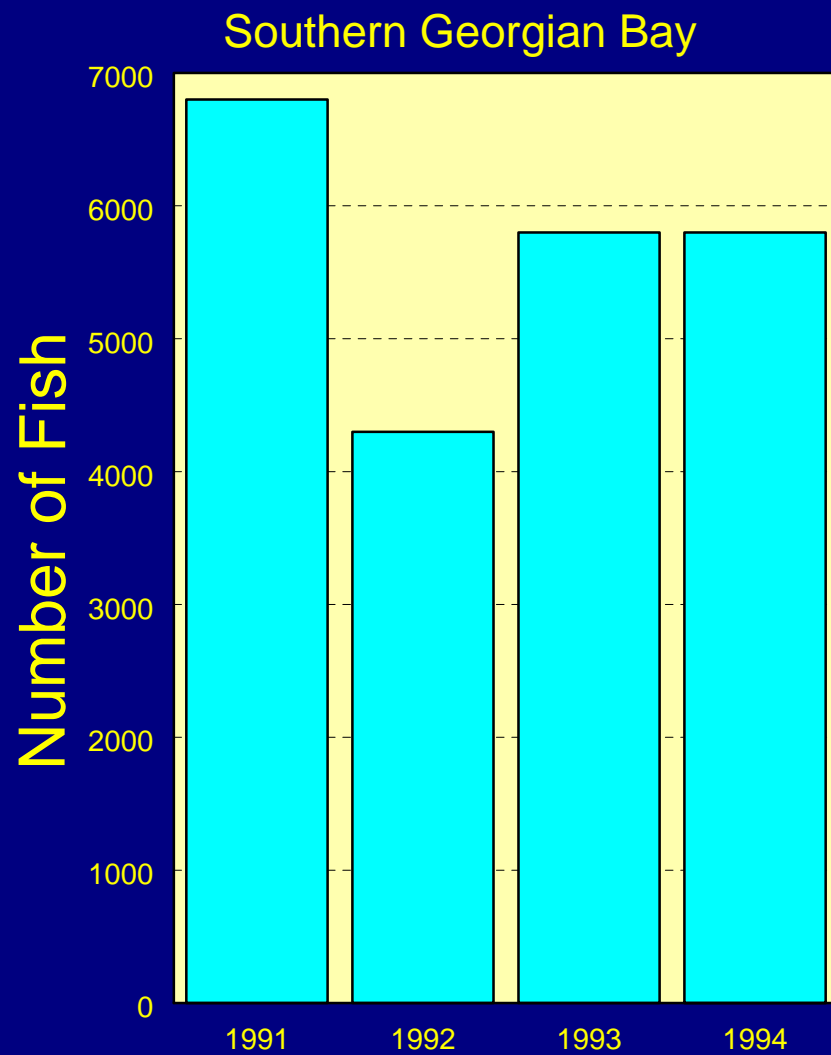


Main Basin (Spring fishway runs)





Estimates of rainbow trout harvest in Lake Huron basins.



Year



Lake Huron Rainbow Trout Get A Helping Hand.

Advisory Committee and O.M.N.R. - "Partners in restoration plan"
1997



Introduction

The "steelhead" or rainbow trout has become a prominent species in the fish community of Lake Huron after just over a century since its initial introduction. This fish's ability for adapting to local environmental conditions has enabled it to spread to suitable habitats and in many cases establish self-sustaining populations.

Anglers have experienced new benefits as a result of the widespread availability and renewed sporting qualities of rainbow trout. The spring and fall spawning runs have also attracted the attention of avid fish watchers and the sight of rainbow trout leaping barriers is a sight to behold.

Are Rainbow Trout Here to Stay ?

During the late 1980s, declines in the number of rainbow trout were observed by anglers and staff of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). Observations suggested that the decline included both the numbers of immature rainbow trout harvested in the open water fishery and the numbers of mature adults returning to spawn in southern Georgian Bay tributary streams. The magnitude and cause of the decline were unknown.

In response, the Lake Huron Management Unit (LHMU) initiated a review of the status of rainbow trout populations in Lake Huron. Between 1993 and 1994, all available data on rainbow trout from Lake Huron were compiled and analyzed. The study area included the Main Basin of Lake Huron from Sarnia to Tobermory and southern Georgian Bay from Tobermory to Port Severn (Fig. 1).

The goal of the rainbow trout review was:

To develop a plan for protecting and rehabilitating rainbow trout populations in southern Georgian Bay and to provide guidelines for maintaining a sustainable recreational fishery for the species throughout all of Lake Huron.

Objectives were to:

1. review all available data on Lake Huron rainbow trout populations;
2. review the life history of migratory rainbow trout in Lake Huron;
3. document the nature and magnitude of the decline in rainbow trout populations;
4. investigate the factors which may have led to the decrease in rainbow numbers; and
5. develop management recommendations directed at ensuring the restoration and conservation of rainbow trout populations.

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Rainbow trout anglers at Denny's Dam (Auger River)

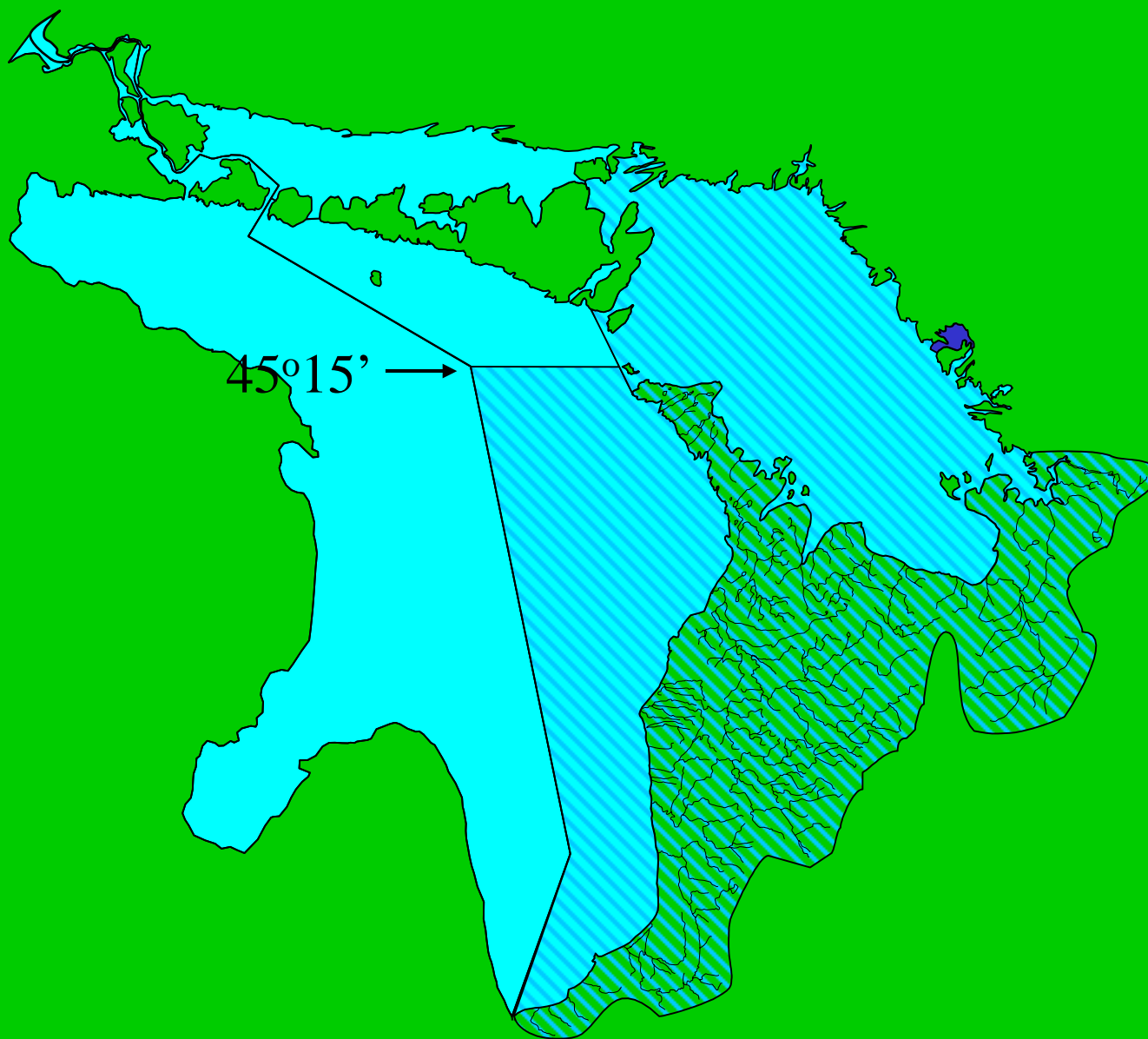
Rainbow Trout Review Public Advisory Committee Established

In December 1994, the Rainbow Trout Review Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was established to work in partnership with OMNR to develop a Rainbow Trout Management Plan for Lake Huron. It consisted of 25 members representing angling associations, the fishing tackle and charter boat industries, and environmentally active groups.

Who Were the Representatives on the Advisory Committee ?

The following groups participated:

1. Huron Bay Sportfishing Association
2. Blue Ridge Sportsmen Association
3. Bluewater Anglers Association
4. Bowel Peninsula Sportsmen Association
5. Charter Boat Industry (Fishes Free Charter)
6. East Grey Hunters and Anglers
7. Equipment Outfitters (The Boatworks)
8. Fishing Equipment Industry (Walker Downeys)
9. Georgian Triangle Anglers Association
10. Golden Triangle Boatbuilders
11. Lake Huron Fishing Club
12. Marquette Valley Anglers
13. Marquette Sport Fishers Advisory Council
14. Nine Mile West Boatbuilders
15. Ontario Boatbuilders
16. Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
17. Owen Sound Field Naturalists
18. Owen Sound Rainbow Club
19. Owen Sound Round Table on the Environment and Economy
20. Sault Ste. Marie and District
21. Severn Sound and Sturgeon Bay Boatbuilders
22. South Bruce Fish and Game Club
23. Sudbourn Sportsmen Association
24. Upper Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen Club
25. Wrentham Beach Fish and Game Club
26. Collingwood Rod and Gun Club



$45^{\circ}15'$ →

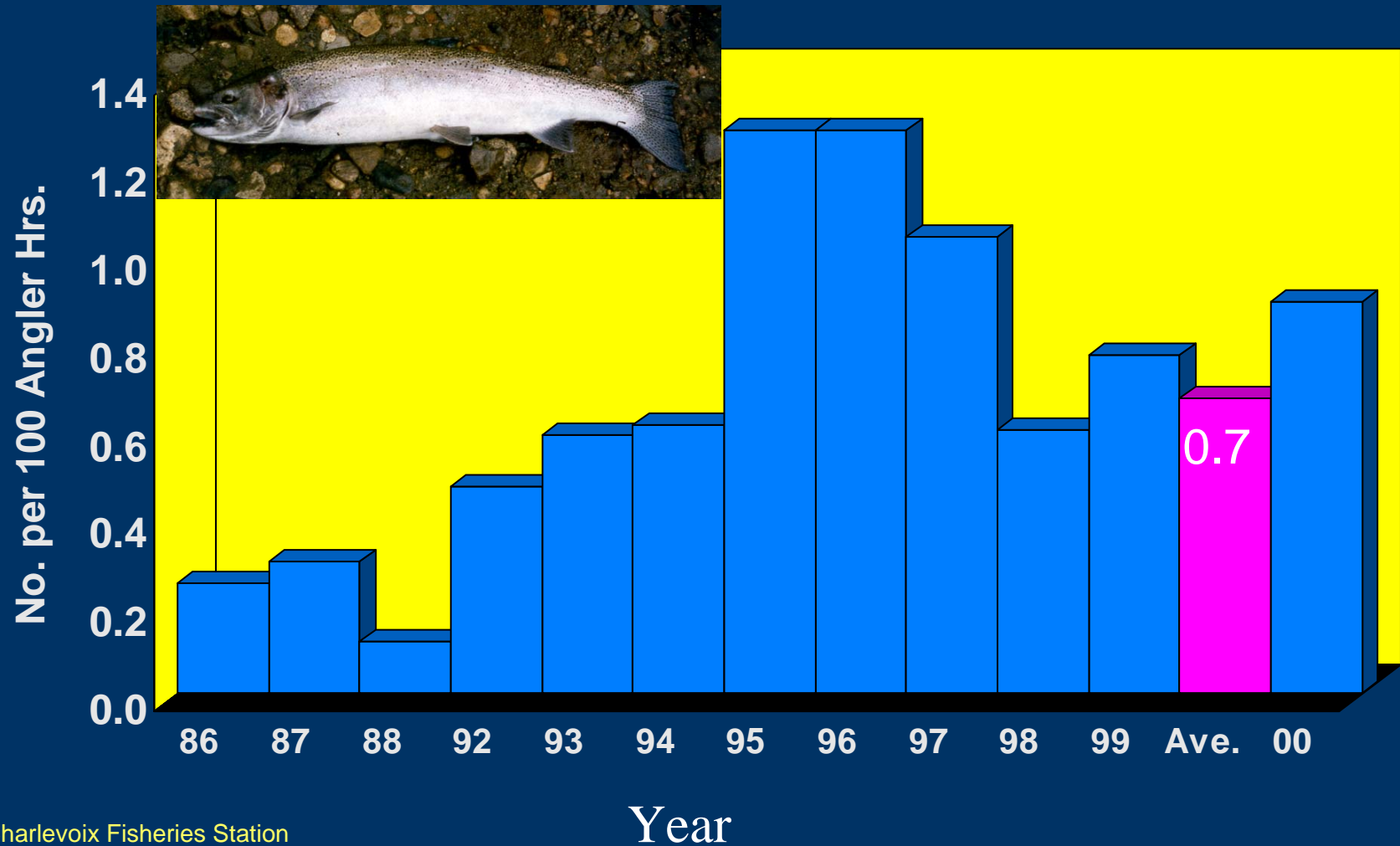


Area of bag limit reduction



Rivers with changes to river
specific rainbow trout fishing regulations.

Rainbow Trout Catch Rates at Nine Lake Huron Ports in the Main Basin



Rainbow trout Biomass and CPUE in the Main Basin of Lake Huron

